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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/678,430	10/02/2000	Chris Greener	PA1256US	4360

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EXAMINER

KINDRED, ALFORD W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2163

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/678,430

Applicant(s)

GREENER ET AL

Examiner

Alford W. Kindred

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 33-40 and 42-60 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 33-40 and 42-60 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment, filed 03/29/05.

This action is made final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 33-40 and 42-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith, JR. et al., US# 2002/0128898 A1, in view of DESAI et al., US# 2001/0052009 A1.

As per claim 33, Smith, JR. et al. teaches "a database interface configured to access the database . . ." (see page 3, paragraphs and [0047]) "a survey creation engine configured to create surveys . . ." (see page 3, paragraph [0043]) "allow a user of the survey creation machine to create a survey . . ." (see page 4, paragraphs [0052]-[0053]) "an e-mail list management facility configured to provided management capability through the network browser of the survey design machine of a list of e-mail . . ." (see paragraphs [0108]-[0110]). Smith, Jr. et al. Does not teach "the e-mail containing a network link to provide access to the survey for the client computer via network protocols . . .". DESAI et al. teaches "the e-mail containing a network link to provide access to the survey for the client computer via network protocols . . ." (see

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paragraphs [0005], [0035] and [0048]). It would have obvious at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art to have combined the teachings of Smith and DESA, because using the steps of "the e-mail containing a network link to provide access to the survey for the client computer via network protocols . . ." would have given those skilled in the art the tools to link e-mail survey information via a protocol element in a more efficient manner. This give users the advantage of expediting the results of surveys received via email.

As per claim 34, Smith, JR. et al. teaches "interfaces of the host machine and the survey design machine are configured to access the Internet" (see page 4, lines [0057]-[0058]).

As per claims 35-37, Smith, JR. et al. teaches "a sever process configured to send a created survey . . . than mail protocols . . ." (see page 3, paragraphs [0046]-[0048]).

As per claims 38-39, Smith, JR. et al. teaches "the server process of the host machine is further configured to provide access to response stored in the database for the network browser of the survey design machine" (see page 6, paragraphs, [0098], and [0107]-[0111]).

As per claim 42, Smith, JR. et al. teaches "the network link of the e-mail is a universal resource locator (URL)" (see page 9, paragraph [0143]).

As per claim 43, Smith, JR. et al. teaches "the host is configured to store web content objects associated with the stored surveys" (see page 9, paragraphs [0137]-[0141]).

As per claim 44, Smith, JR. et al. teaches "the database is configured to provide password protected access to stored surveys and responses to surveys" (see page 8, paragraphs [0128]-[0130]).

As per claim 45, Smith, JR. et al. teaches "created engine includes a wizard process configured to provide automated guidance in survey creation" (see page 8, paragraphs [0125]).

As per claim 46, Smith, JR. et al. teaches "survey creation engine includes templates of exemplary surveys and is configured to provide to the network browser of the survey design machine at least one function configured to provide modification capability for tailoring of the exemplary surveys to match requirements of intended surveys" (see page 12, paragraphs [0176]-[0177]).

As per claim 47, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 33 and is similarly rejected including the following: Smith, JR. et al. does not explicitly teach "the network to edit a list of e-mail recipients stored . . .". DESAI et al. teaches "the network to edit a list of e-mail recipients stored . . ." (see paragraphs [0033]-[0035]). It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art the tools to efficiently edit email list for surveying purposes. This give users the advantage for rendering modified survey lists from recipients faster.

As per claim 48, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 41 and is similarly rejected.

As per claim 49, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 46 and is similarly rejected.

As per claim 50, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 45 and is similarly rejected.

As per claim 51, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claims 33 and 35 and is similarly rejected.

As per claims 52-55, these claims are rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claims 33 and 47 and are similarly rejected.

As per claim 56, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 46 and is similarly rejected.

As per claims 57-58, these claims are rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claims 33 and 47 and are similarly rejected including the following:

- Smith, JR. et al. teaches "constant sum questions, spinner questions . . ."
(see fig. 8—sheet 9 of 11 and see paragraphs [0097]-[0098]).

As per claims 59-60, these claims are rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claims 33 and 47 and are similarly rejected including the following:

- Smith, JR et al. teaches "select font of text . . . color . . ." (see fig. 3—sheet 4 of 11)).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 3/29/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

--As per applicant's arguments regarding "Smith not only does not teach, but also teaches away from an e-mail list management facility configured to provide management capability through the network browser . . . chosen to receive an e-mail associated with a survey . . .", examiner maintains that Smith in view of Desai, combined teachings involving dynamic assignment of surveys such that a list of e-mail recipients chosen to receive an e-mail associated with a survey . . .", is illustrative of applicant's claim language an e-mail list management facility configured to provide management capabilities through the network browser . . .". Both the prior art of record combined and applicant's claim language involves a survey design element combined with the management of e-mail lists related to the survey design element via a network environment.

--As per applicant's arguments regarding "Desai teaches generation of questionnaire response applets, which, in general, is not distribution of questionnaires and does not, in particular, address that found . . .", examiner maintains that the generation of questionnaire response reads on applicant's distribution of questionnaires, both process information base on submitted question electronically.

--As per applicant arguments regarding "Smith points out that inviting individuals to participate in surveys via e-mail provides no mechanism for selecting a different survey that may better suited . . . Smith, there would be no list of e-mail recipients in Smith to edit", examiner disagrees and maintains the Smith invitation to participates includes the means to process various survey in a manner indicated in applicant's claim language.

--As per applicant arguments regarding "the office action states that 'it would have been obvious . . . ' . . . this gives users the advantage of rendering modified survey lists" the respectfully believes that this statement of obviousness has no relevance . . .", examiner disagrees and maintains that the combination of Smith and Desai is proper and Smith's dynamic assignment is compatible and combinable with the Desai reference and therefore the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

5. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alford W. Kindred whose telephone number is 571-272-4037. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9:00 am- 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (571) 272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alford W. Kindred', is positioned above the printed name.

Alford W. Kindred
Patent Examiner
Tech Ctr. 2100